

Good News Daily

Volume XVIII

May 27-June 2, 2018

Number 21

Sunday, May 27

Acts 8:14-25 *When Simon saw that the Spirit was given when the apostles laid their hands on people, he offered them money to buy this power. "Let me have this power, too," he exclaimed, "so that when I lay my hands on people, they will receive the Holy Spirit!"* (vv.18-19 NLT)

Have you ever found yourself thinking like Simon did? I know I've had numerous occasions where I have caught myself being more attracted to the power of God upon one's life, rather than the presence of God Himself. Unfortunately, I can relate wholeheartedly to the story of Simon.

In the midst of my learning though, I've discovered that while walking in the power of God is attractive, we were created to live in communion with His presence first and foremost! If we seek His power apart from dwelling in His presence, we are taking the fast-track, headed straight into burnout.

Dwelling in God's presence is my home. Walking in His power is a beautiful added bonus!

Proverbs 9:1-12; Psalms 148, 149, 150; Luke 10:25-28, 38-42

Monday, May 28

Proverbs 10:1-12 *People with integrity walk safely, but those who follow crooked paths will be exposed.* (v.9)

On the days I find myself anxious and unsettled, I know there's something in me that has compromised with darkness. Whether it's a deliberate action, taking matters into my own hands, or believing a lie, not having the inner-safety that comes from walking with the Lord is what tells me I'm in need of an adjustment.

The more I fall in love with Jesus and dwell in friendship with him, the more I find safety in walking in his ways. Loving Him inspires me to be the same person when I'm in the midst of a crowd or hidden in a cave. I do not have to fear what might be exposed. I have come to the light and have broken agreement with shame.

Loving Jesus is the safest place I've ever known.

Psalms 25; 1 Timothy 1:1-17; Matthew 12:22-32

Tuesday, May 29

Proverbs 15:16-33 *Fear of the LORD teaches wisdom; humility precedes honor.* (v.33)

A while back, I decided to do the unthinkable. I decided to come clean—completely. No matter how excruciatingly painful my decision was

going to require of me, I chose to get rid of all of my shame. And the only way I knew how to do so, was to intentionally tell the people I would feel most shameful towards the darkest secrets of my life.

So, after many years of my parents not knowing my past sins, I sat them down and told them everything. I mean, everything. And with tears in their eyes and love overflowing from their hearts, they looked at me and said, “Janae, we love you. We’re not mad at you. We forgive you.”

That day God revealed to me the beauty of mercy. Though they had every reason to look at me differently, shun me, scold me...my parents met me with compassion and forgiveness. They met me with love that I did not deserve.

Psalms 26, 28; 1 Timothy 1:18—2:8; Matthew 12:33-42

Wednesday, May 30

Matthew 12:43-50 *“When an evil spirit leaves a person, it goes into the desert, seeking rest but finding none. Then it says, ‘I will return to the person I came from.’ So it returns and finds its former home empty, swept, and in order.”* (vv.43-44)

For those of you who are anything like me, you’ve probably read this verse and found yourself a bit perplexed—especially considering the following verse that says the evil spirit goes and finds seven of its friends! This passage has always left me intimidated. Which is why I knew my interpretation was clearly not of the Lord.

Recently, the Holy Spirit highlighted a word to me I had never noticed before. Empty. The spirit finds its former home...empty! This was when I had to ask myself this question: How many of us spend our lives trying to chase evil out, but never learn how to fill ourselves back up with the light?

Walking in freedom goes far beyond chasing evil out. We need to not only expose the darkness, but immerse ourselves in the light—and his name is Jesus! Filling ourselves up with the presence of Jesus is where sustainable freedom is found.

Proverbs 17:1-20; Psalm 38; 1 Timothy 3:1-16

Thursday, May 31

Proverbs 21:30—22:6 *The horse is prepared for the day of battle, but the victory belongs to the LORD.* (v.31)

Reading this verse, I can’t help but ask myself this: What is my horse? In other words, what do I prepare for *my* day of battle? Is it my savings account? My health? My physical appearance? My wisdom? Even deeper, in whom (or what) do I place my hope? Far too often I place my confidence upon my “horse”—or my earthly circumstances and tangible resources. And though none of these things are inherently bad, I have recurrently learned that nothing in this world could ever protect me like the Lord does.

When I finally lay my subconscious attempts to feel in “control” at the Lord’s feet, He goes before me and shields my way. He loves to defy all earthly circumstances and prove that victory truly does belong to Him—and Him alone.

Psalm 37:1-18; 1 Timothy 4:1-16; Matthew 13:24-30

Friday, June 1

Psalm 31 *You are my rock and my fortress. For the honor of your name, lead me out of this danger.* (v.3)

The words of King David linger within my ears as I ponder upon his deepest cry. “For the honor of *your* name, Lord”—not his own. I’m convinced this is why David was a man after God’s own heart. It had nothing to do with his ability to live perfectly. In fact, David was quite the sinner to say the least. He was a murderer, an adulterer, and the list could go on and on. So why was David a man after God’s own heart you might ask? Because David loved God more than he loved himself. At the deepest core of his being, David longed to honor the Lord over himself. No matter how many times he chose differently or let sin take him over, David’s heart cry was for the Lord to be honored and for His name to be made known throughout the ages.

My prayer is that I would long to honor the Lord like David did. I want to love God—more than I love myself.

Proverbs 23:19-21, 29—24:2; 1 Timothy 5:17-25; Matthew 13:31-35

Saturday, June 2

Psalm 32 *Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sin is put out of sight.* (vv.1-2)

Have you ever outright wronged someone and thought to yourself, “If they never forgive me, I’ll understand”? I don’t know your experience, but I know for me, in my darkest of days, I have by-no-means deserved forgiveness from individuals but received it anyway.

I’ll never forget the day one of my closest friends forgave me for something I found to be “unforgiveable.” I remember going on a long run and bargaining with the Lord, requesting that if He could soften her heart enough for her to want to make amends, that I’d celebrate this reconciliation until the day I died! And still—to this day—I find myself celebrating her forgiveness. Not to mention, I especially celebrate our reconciliation!

I can’t help but think this is what is meant to be between us and God. A crazy, wild, radical celebration of undeserved grace and love—for the rest of our lives. Though we did *not* deserve forgiveness, He graciously gave it to us anyway. And not only that, but He has forgotten our transgressions as far as the east is from the west. They have been completely put out of sight!

What joy his forgiveness brings!

Proverbs 25:15-28; Psalm 30; 1 Timothy 6:6-21; Matthew 13:36-43

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